

DR. ILAN STRAUSS

Substack: [Asimov Addendum](#) ◊ Github: [Ilan Strauss](#) ◊ E-Mail: ilan@aidisclosures.org

ABOUT

I co-direct the AI Disclosures Project with Tim O'Reilly. A South African native, I am a Visiting Associate Professor at the University of Johannesburg (South Africa), **Office of the SARCHI Chair in Industrial Development**, and a Senior Honorary Fellow at University College London's *Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose* (London). My work on digital platforms and on AI has been covered by Cory Doctorow, the Financial Times, TechCrunch, and presented to policy makers and AI labs. I am on the editorial board of **Data for Policy**.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Economics, *The New School for Social Research*, New York 2014 - May 2020
Columbia University Coursework: Bayesian Statistics, Macroeconomics, Dynamical Systems
- MSc**, International Development Economics (First Class), *SOAS, University of London* 2010 - 2011
- BSc (with Honours)**, Economics and History, *University of Cape Town* 2005 - 2007

SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Program Director - AI Disclosures Project**, Social Science Research Council (New York) 06/2024 - January 26, 2026

Together with Tim O'Reilly, I direct a team aimed at architecting healthier AI markets through research, collaborations, and convenings, focused on protocols, open APIs, memory interoperability, corporate disclosure (financial market reforms), & telemetry. This work is now being moved out of the Social Science Research Council.
- **Head of Digital Economy Research**, UCL - IIPP 06/2022 - 05/2024

Lead research for an Omidyar Network funded grant covering algorithmic rents on digital platforms with Tim O'Reilly and Mariana Mazzucato (PI). Manage and lead research pipeline, publishing, dissemination, and public engagement, grant and funder management, logistics and reimbursements, and hiring. Published in **leading journals**, reshaped narratives, influenced policy makers.
- **Research Associate**, University College London, Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose 05/2021 - 05/2022
- **Expert Consultant**, International Labour Organization and AfDB, COVID-19 Country Impacts, 04/2020 - 05/2021

Country impact assessments and policy guidance, such as: [here](#)
- **Lecturer in Macroeconomics**, New York University (Division of Applied Undergraduate Studies) and Rice University Online MBA 01/2016 - 06/2020

Some student reviews can be found: [here](#)

- *Course lead*, Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University (Houston, Texas), @MBA program. 1/2019 - 06/2020
 - *Adjunct Lecturer*, New York University (New York), Division of Applied Undergraduate Studies (DAUC) 06/2015 - 12/2019
 - o **Expert Consultant**, UNCTAD (Investment Division), WIR 12/2013 - 08/2018
- Write the Africa Section of the World Investment Report, such as: [here](#)
- o **Economist Consultant**, African Development Bank (AfDB) (Tunisia) 06/2013 - 06/2014

GRANTS

Bellagio (Italy) convening on AI market standards, April 27 – May 1, 2026, Rockefeller Foundation, co-awarded with Tim O'Reilly.

AI Disclosures Project (Social Science Research Council), grants awarded with Tim O'Reilly, August 2024 - December 1, 2025:

- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation: Grant #2024-22642, principal investigator (PI). *Reapplication for a different grant in progress.*
- Omidyar Network: \$250,000, Co-PI. *Grant renewal in process.*
- Patrick J. McGovern Foundation: \$150,000, Co-PI. *Grant renewal in process.*

Economic Security Project. \$25,000. February 2022 - June 2023. Economic Security Project, 'Anti-Monopoly Fund', award to investigate the role of M&A in Big Tech's dynamic capabilities with Dr. Jangho Yang. Peer-reviewed and competitive. Principal Investigator. Administered by University of Waterloo.

University College London, Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose:

- July 2022 - June 30, 2024, Omidyar Network Grant Renewal, \$475,000.00 Algorithmic Rents, Research Lead (Mariana Mazzucato - PI, and Tim O'Reilly).

JOURNAL AND PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

My Google Scholar Profile: [here](#).

My latest Arxiv outputs: [here](#).

My substack, Asimov Addendum [here](#), with Tim O'Reilly has over 1,500 regular readers including influential AI regulatory experts such as Brandon Silverman (CrowdTangle) and Helen Toner.

- Featured in Charlie Guo's top substacks on AI to follow for 2024 with under 1,000 subscribers [here](#).

- Strauss, I., and Yang, J. (2026). M&A as Capability Building: Patent Evidence from Big Tech. *Applied Economic Letters* [forthcoming, accepted].
- Rosenblat, S., Strauss, I., and O'Reilly, T. (2026). "Beyond Public Access in LLM Pre-Training Data". *AI and Ethics* [Forthcoming, minor revision].
- Strauss, I., Yang, J., and Mazzucato, M. (2026). "Rich-Get-Richer"? Analyzing Content Creator Earnings Across Large Social Media Platforms. *Industrial and Corporate Change* [Forthcoming, minor revision].
- Strauss, I., Yang, J., O'Reilly, T., Rosenblat, S., and Moure, I. (2026). "The Attribution Crisis in LLM Search Results: Estimating Ecosystem Exploitation." *Data for Policy* [Forthcoming, accepted]].
- Strauss, I., Moure, I., O'Reilly, T., and Rosenblat, S. (2026). "Real-World Gaps in AI Governance Research: AI Safety and Reliability in Everyday Deployments." *IEEE Access* [Forthcoming, minor revision].
- Strauss, I. and Yang, J. (2024). Testing for secular stagnation in investment rates using a Bayesian multilevel model. *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, 70, 351-364 (September 2024).
- Strauss, I., O'Reilly, T. and Mazzucato, M. (2024). Amazon's Algorithmic Rents: The economics of information on Amazon. *UC Law Science and Technology Journal*, 15 (2024): 203.
- Rock, R., Strauss, I., O'Reilly, T. and Mazzucato, M. (2024). Behind the Clicks: Can Amazon allocate user attention as it pleases?, *Information Economics and Policy*, 69, 101115.
- O'Reilly, T., Strauss, I., and Mazzucato, M. (2024). 'Algorithmic Attention Rents: A theory of digital platform market power', *Data & Policy*, Volume 6, e6. 2024.
- Mazzucato, M., Strauss, I., O'Reilly, T., and Ryan-Collins, J. (2023). 'Regulating Big Tech: The role of enhanced disclosures'. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Volume 39, Issue 1, Spring 2023, pp. 47–69.
- Strauss, I., and Yang, J. (2021). 'Slowing Investment Rates in Developing Economies: Evidence from a Bayesian hierarchical model', *International Review of Financial Analysis*, Volume 77, October 2021.
- Strauss, I., and Isaacs, G., and Rosenberg, J.(2021). 'The Effect of Shocks to GDP on Employment in SADC Member States during the COVID-19 Pandemic using a Bayesian Hierarchical Model', *African Development Review*, 05 May 2021.
- Strauss, I., and Isaacs, G., and Rosenberg, J. (2021). 'How has Covid-19 Impacted Labour Markets in SADC Member States? Evidence from combining novel high-frequency data and other sources', *African Development Review*, 05 May 2021.
- Strauss, I. (2017). 'Understanding South Africa's Current Account Deficit: The role of foreign direct investment income', *Transnational Corporations (UNCTAD)*, Volume 23, Number 2, 2017.
- Strauss, I. and Charaf-Eddine, N. (2014). 'Ten Commandments of Applied Regional Integration

Analysis: The African Case’, *African Development Review*, Special Edition, Volume 26, Issue S1, pages 7–20, November 2014.

Strauss, I., Isaacs, G., and Capaldo, J. (2017). ‘The Impact of Minimum Wage Increases on the South African Economy in the Global Policy Model’, *ILO Research Paper No. 20*, October 2017. International Labour Office.

Strauss, I. and Mavroedi, V. (2017). ‘How India can Benefit from FDI: lessons from China’, *Columbia FDI Perspectives*, No. 194 February 27, 2017. Columbia University. [Peer reviewed].

Strauss, I. (2015). ‘Understanding South Africa’s Current Account Deficit: the role of FDI income’, *Africa Economic Brief*, Volume 6, Issue 4, 2015, African Development Bank. [Peer reviewed].

Krüger, R., and Strauss, I. (2015). ‘Africa Rising Out of Itself: the growth of intra-African FDI’, *Columbia FDI Perspectives*, N.139, January 19 2015, Columbia University. [Peer reviewed].

Strauss, I. (2013). ‘Manufacturing and the National Development Plan: Which way forward?’, *Social Dynamics: A Journal of African studies*, 2013, 39:1, 119–129.

POSITION PIECES AND WORKING PAPERS

Strauss, I., O’Reilly, T., Moure, I., and Rosenblat, S. (2025). Governing AI Through SEC Disclosure: Materiality Standards and Incident Reporting. DOI: 10.35650/AIDP.4120.d.2025 *arXiv*.

Rosenblat, S., Strauss, I., Moure, I., and O’Reilly, T. (2025, September 29). MCP in practice. *Towards Data Science*. Online: <https://towardsdatascience.com/mcp-in-practice/>

Moure, I., O’Reilly, T., and Strauss, I. (2025, July 30). Open protocols can prevent AI monopolies. *AI Frontiers*. [Peer reviewed]. Online: <https://ai-frontiers.org/articles/open-protocols-prevent-ai-monopolies>

PRESENTATIONS, POLICY, CONFERENCES, AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Attendee, 2026 Technology-Enabled Disruption Conference: *Shaping the future of finance and payments*, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Boston, MA, February 24, 2026 (organized by the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, Atlanta, and Richmond). Invite Only.

Attendee and Speaker, Social Science Foo Camp. February 2026. Invitation-only elite gathering organized by O’Reilly, Microsoft AI, Sage, and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Presentation to French Ministry for Economic affairs. “Architecting Healthy Digital Markets”. With Tim O’Reilly. November 19, 2025.

Attendee, Anthropic Futures Forum in Washington D.C. September 15, 2025. Invite only.

Research Presentation, Waterloo Data and Artificial Intelligence Institute, “The Attribution Crisis in LLM Search Results: Estimating Ecosystem Exploitation”, University of Waterloo, September 10, 2025. Research seminar presentation. Online: <https://uwaterloo.ca/artificial->

intelligence-institute/events/attribution-crisis-llm-search-results-estimating-ecosystem-0

Interview, Hack Club. “Market disclosures will determine the future of AI”. September 10, 2025. Interview. Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXNw6vDtojs>

Presenter, Data for Policy. “Making AI’s Thinking and Behaviour More Transparent”. July 2025. Data for Policy Fireside Chat. With Sruly Rosenblat. Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSjEJfqGx1Y>

Participant, Creative Commons x NYU Stern Workshop on open licensing models under AI. May 20, 2025. Feedback and working group participant. Invite Only.

Presentation, IT Revolution Forum. “The cloud as a regulatory layer for AI”. April 2–4, 2025. San Jose. Online: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yS2rerKE_LD9aNFmmj1xHpF7VdSh620k_1Pr44LZHvw/edit#slide=id.g31bcd6251f9_4_77

Attendee, Paris AI Summit. Paris. February 10–11, 2025. Invite Only.

Attendee, NSF-funded National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) special convening at New York University. July 30, 2024. Invite Only.

Presentation, 2024 Bergen Competition Policy Conference (BECCLC), ‘Amazon’s Algorithmic Rents: The economics of information on Amazon’, May 31, 2024.

Presentation, Data for Policy. “Algorithmic Rents: How Big Tech Platforms Control Attention and Shape Markets: A Conversation”, April 3, 2024 with Tim O’Reilly and Mariana Mazzucato. Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2bFVe0S3ag> and <https://dataforpolicy.org/algorithmic-rents-how-big-tech-platforms-control-attention-and-shape-markets-a-conversation/>

Presentation, Office of Communications (Ofcom) UK Regulator. “Decision Making Online”. December 2023, with Tim O’Reilly, key input into the Online Safety Act.

Research presentation with Jangho Yang, UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) Research Seminar (OCEA): “Big Tech’s Acquired Technological Dominance: Using patents to analyse capabilities”. October 12, 2023.

Research Presentation, University College London (IIPP). “Big Tech’s Acquired Technological Dominance: Using patents to analyse capabilities”. 2023. Algorithmic Rents Research Showcase, October 12, 2023. Including high profile government attendees and regulators. Online: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/events/2023/oct/algorithmic-rents-research-showcase> and <https://medium.com/iipp-blog/algorithmic-rents-research-showcase-fbfb1f85acdd>

Research Presentation, University College London. “Does Big Tech use M&A to Dominate Technological Markets? A capabilities approach”. Presentation to the Centre for Law, Economics and Society, University College London. October 10, 2023. Online: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/does-big-tech-use-ma-to-dominate-technological-markets-tickets-719878023547>

Panelist, Rethinking Economics for Africa 2022. “Competition Policy and Digital Platforms”. September 17, 2022. Wits University.

Panelist, “Africa-EU Strategy: What trade is needed to promote sustainable development on the African continent?” Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung webinar on EU-Africa trade policy, regional economic integration, and post-COVID economic development. June 2020.

RECENT INVITED LECTURES AND PANELS

TRAILS (Trustworthy AI in Law and Society) annual conference (NIST and NSF funded), March 4 and 5th, 2026, <https://trails.gwu.edu/trailscon-2025>. Transparency as a tool to govern AI. Session Chair.

Moderator, The George Washington University, Webinar, “Can America Limit the Data Giants’ Dominance of AI?”, Elliott School of International Affairs, Digital Trade and Governance Hub, November 17, 2025 , <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzyYVWXNefw>.

University of Washington. Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE). “Beyond Public Access in LLM Pre-Training Data”. Presentation to Computational Demography Working Group (CDWG). November 19, 2025. Research presentation.

Yale University. Jackson School of Global Affairs. Guest Lecture. “The cloud as a regulatory layer for AI?” December 3, 2024. Online: [here](#).

University of Johannesburg. “Who will police generative AI? Lessons from the private armies who patrol the internet”. Research Presentation. SARChI Webinar series. August 1, 2024. Online: [Here](#).

University College London. Lectures given. Statistical Methods I and II. Lecture to Masters in Public Administration (MPA). October 5-11, 2023 and 2022.

University College London. Enrichment Lecture given. Herbert Simon, Attention, and Digital Platforms. Open Lecture to Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP). October 9, 2023.

RECENT STUDENTS SUPERVISED

- Chan Young Park, University College London (Masters of Public Administration), 2025
- Malineo Sebohol, University of Johannesburg (Masters in Economics), 2021–2023

MEDIA COVERAGE AND MENTIONS

Murgia, M., Murray, C., & Clark, D. (2026, March 22). AI hallucinations haunt users more than job losses. *Financial Times*. Online:<https://www.ft.com/content/eed8a43d-043f-47f5-b5fb-fd41220ad775>

Broersma, M. (2026, March 24). AI Users Say False Output Is Top Concern. *Silicon UK*. Online: <https://www.silicon.co.uk/e-innovation/artificial-intelligence/ai-claude-survey->

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- Data Revolution* (2026). Documentary film by INCA & AZ Visual Media. Interview. Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJWLABABUSE>
- Woo, E., Schuette, G., & Lardner, A. (2026, March 7). Regulating AI Washing. *The Regulatory Review*. Online: <https://www.theregreview.org/2026/03/07/seminar-regulating-ai-washing/>
- Interview with Ilan Strauss on “Power Laws and the Creator Economy: Are Only the Rich Getting Richer?” by Ronald C. Pruett, Jr., *LinkedIn*, 19 November 2025. Online article.
- DeepLearning.AI. (2025, May 28). Study shows OpenAI’s GPT-4o model can identify verbatim excerpts from paywalled O’Reilly books. *The Batch*. Online: <https://www.deeplearning.ai/the-batch/study-shows-openais-gpt-4o-model-can-identify-verbatim-excerpts-from-paywalled-oreilly-books/>
- Mann, T. (2025, April 3). OpenAI wants to bend copyright rules. Study suggests it isn’t waiting for permission. *The Register*. Online: https://www.theregister.com/2025/04/03/openai_copyright_bypass/
- World Economic Forum. (2025, April 3). Open protocols can prevent AI monopolies. *WEF Policy Navigator*. Online: <https://initiatives.weforum.org/forum-spaces/policy-navigator/publications/open-protocols-can-prevent-ai-monopolies/3aad01d56821f3946aee99651c5649c958653>
- Bursztynsky, J. (2025, April 2). An AI watchdog accused OpenAI of using copyrighted books without permission. *Fast Company*. Online: <https://www.fastcompany.com/91310223/an-ai-watchdog-accused-openai-of-using-copyrighted-books-without-permission>
- Daws, R. (2025, April 2). Study claims OpenAI trains AI models on copyrighted data. *AI News*. Online: <https://www.artificialintelligence-news.com/news/study-claims-openai-trains-ai-models-copyrighted-data/>
- Wiggers, K. (2025, April 1). Researchers suggest OpenAI trained AI models on paywalled O’Reilly books. *TechCrunch*. Online: <https://techcrunch.com/2025/04/01/researchers-suggest-openai-trained-ai-models-on-paywalled-oreilly-books/>
- Foroohar, R. (2023, November 6). We must stop AI replicating the problems of surveillance capitalism. *Financial Times*. Online: <https://www.ft.com/content/d9063c16-a4d2-4580-b8f6-a4872083d0fa>
- Doctorow, C. (2023, November 3). Big Tech’s “attention rents”: Enshittification comes out of the barrel of an algorithm. *Medium*. Online: <https://doctorow.medium.com/big-techs-attention-rents-fe97ba3fad90>
- O’Reilly, T. (2021, December 16). It’s time to open big tech’s financial black box. *The Information*.
- Foroohar, R. (2021, December 13). This is how big tech avoids full financial disclosure and scrutiny. *The Australian Financial Review*. Online: <https://www.afr.com/world/north-america/this-is-how-big-tech-avoids-full-financial-disclosure-and-scrutiny-20211213-p59h0y>

Foroohar, R. (2021, December 12). Big Tech is playing a digital shell game. *Financial Times*.
Online: <https://www.ft.com/content/99ca12c5-498e-4ee4-8046-a27cd0a1038b>

For coverage and impact of some of my work while at University College London. See: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/policies-and-disclosures-gatekeeper-platforms>

POPULAR WRITINGS

Strauss, I., and O'Reilly, T. (2025, October 27). AI isn't a superintelligence. It's a market in need of disclosure. *Tech Policy Press*. Online: <https://www.techpolicy.press/ai-isnt-a-superintelligence-its-a-market-in-need-of-disclosure/>

Strauss, I. (2025, May 20). In Business Matters [Radio broadcast]. *BBC World Service*. Online: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/headlines/2025/may/how-secretive-taiwanese-company-shaping-future-global-economy>

Strauss, I. (2025, May 19). The current account: about more than container ships [Letter]. *Financial Times*. Online: <https://www.ft.com/content/33f63649-c5d9-4b6e-a87d-256910e615a5> and <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2025/may/letter-current-account-about-more-container-ships>

Rock, R., O'Reilly, T., Strauss, I., and Mazzucato, M. (2024, April 10). To understand the risks posed by AI, follow the money. *The Conversation*. Online: <https://www.theconversation.com/to-understand-the-risks-posed-by-ai-follow-the-money-225872>

Mazzucato, M., and Strauss, I. (2024, February 28). The algorithm and its discontents. *Project Syndicate*. Online: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/algorithm-governance-five-principles-to-prevent-ai-from-aggravating-digital-economy-harms-by-mariana-mazzucato-and-ilan-strauss-2024-02>

Project Syndicate. (2023, March 9). PS commentators respond: Can the US rein in Big Tech? (contributors include A. Bradford, T. O'Reilly, I. Strauss, M. Mazzucato, and T. Valletti). *Project Syndicate – OnPoint*. Online: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/onpoint/ps-commentators-respond-can-the-us-rein-in-big-tech>

Mazzucato, M., and Strauss, I. (2022, January 31). Big Tech must stop hiding. *Project Syndicate*. Online: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/end-big-tech-financial-disclosures-free-pass-by-mariana-mazzucato-and-ilan-strauss-2022-01>

Strauss, I. (2018, August 27). Current accounts: it's not as simple as 'wine for cloth' anymore [Letter]. *Financial Times*. Online: <https://www.ft.com/content/78e5b00a-a52a-11e8-8ecf-a7ae1beff35b>

LETTERS SIGNED

U.S. House Energy & Commerce (Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce). Markup of Three Bills: Documents for the Record (packet incl. coalition letters re: APRA/KOSA/COPPA

2.0), May 23, 2024. Online: <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF17/20240523/117372/HMKP-118-IF17-20240523-SD100.pdf>

Open Letter. Over 100 experts and organisations call on the President and Minister of Finance to halt all planned budget cuts. October 17, 2023. Online: <https://iej.org.za/open-letter-over-100-experts-and-organisations-call-on-the-president-and-minister-of-finance-to-halt-all-planned-budget-cuts/>

Covid-19: 76 economists say government can do more to protect the economy. *GroundUp* (reprints/sign-on host), March 30, 2020. Online: <https://groundup.org.za/article/70-economists-say-government-can-do-more-mitigate-economic-harm-covid-19/>

120 Economists and Researchers Say the Supplementary Budget Reneges on the President’s COVID-19 Rescue Package. Submission dated June 30, 2020. Online: <https://iej.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Submission-to-Finance-Comm-Economists.docx-1.pdf>

JUDGING AND REVIEWING

Sixth ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (ACM EAAMO 2026). Area Chair. Assess scientific papers and manage peer reviewers. Online: <https://conference.eaamo.org/>

ACL Workshop on Evaluating AI in Practice 2026. Reviewer. Assess scientific papers on AI evaluation methodologies. Online: <https://evalevalai.com/events/2026-acl-workshop/>

Fifth ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (ACM EAAMO 2025). Area Chair. Assess scientific papers and manage peer reviewers. Online: <https://conference.eaamo.org/>

Peer Reviewer For:

- *Development Southern Africa*
- *Data and Policy*
- *Competition and Change*
- *Behaviour & Information Technology*
- *Chinese Political Science Review*
- *IEEE Transactions on Technology and Society*

BOOK CHAPTERS

Isaacs, G., Strauss, I., & Mueller, B. (2023). A pro-employment macroeconomic policy framework for Africa. In *Global Employment Policy Review 2023: Macroeconomic policies for recovery and structural transformation* (pp. 119–149). International Labour Organization.

Strauss, I. ‘2019 Trends in FDI Flows and Policy’, in Lisa Sachs and Lise Johnson (eds). *Yearbook on International Investment Law and Policy 2019*. Oxford University Press. March 2021.

Strauss, I. 'Explaining Global Trends in FDI in 2015 and Beyond', in Lisa Sachs and Lise Johnson (eds). *Yearbook on International Investment Law and Policy 2015-2016*. Oxford University Press. November 2017.

Strauss, I. 'Teacher absentee rates: Setting the record straight', in Joshua Maserow (eds). *Taking Equal Education into the Classroom*. Equal Education. 2015: 32.